command, why should not "*societies*" club together for the same purpose. If four or five of these societies which are notoriously so ill-lodged were to club together, might they not be as well lodged as the gentlemen of the Carlton or United Service? Say that the rental which each society pays for a very bad house is 300*l.* a-year. If four societies were to join together, for 1,200*l.* a-year, a magnificent house, sufficient for the purpose, might be had. But for the above purpose a house ought to be built expressly. I myself am quite ignorant of the way in which such joint-stock company affairs are commenced or arranged; I therefore only put this forward as a hint which may be taken up and improved upon by more experienced heads. For example's sake, just to show the practicability of what I propose, I would build a house with the arrangement of a Venetian palace. On the first floor a large central oblong hall, with large windows at each end, having a suite of rooms on each side opening into each other, and into the large hall. This hall should be large enough to be *divided into two*, for the accommodation of two societies to meet in. I would have the second floor exactly the same as the first floor, also to accommodate two societies. The ground-floor and attics I should fit up for the accommodation of the servants, &c. of the societies.

I venture to send you this crude outline of a building which might be made an ornament to London, and certainly would be a great boon to some of our societies. A. D. S.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

According to the *Bristol Mirror*, Clifton Suspension-bridge, long torpid, is now in a fair way of being speedily accomplished. ——It has been unanimously resolved at the Herefordshire Sessions to agree to a suggestion in the report of Messrs. Fulljames and Waller, the architects of the Joint Counties' Lunatic Asylum in course of erection at Abergavenny, that the institution shall be lighted with gas prepared in works of their own. The architects state that there would thus be a saving of 60*l.* a year, calculating 7½ per cent. on the outlay, as they would obtain for 130*l.* the same amount of light for which the Abergavenny Gas Company wanted 190*l.* on an agreement for twenty-one years.—— Trinity Chapel, High Wycombe, was opened on the 23rd of October. The building is in the Norman style, and built of Kentish Rag and Bath stone, with nave and aisles, 60 feet long and 40 feet 6 inches wide. They are divided by stone columns with carved capitals and semicircular arches supporting a clerestory above containing twenty windows, glazed with rough plate-glass, each in one square. The main timbers of the roof are open, and the chapel is flanked by two towers, containing staircases to galleries. The windows have stained glass, and the vestibule and aisles are paved with blue and red Staffordshire tiles. There are also boys' and girls' school-rooms, and ministers' vestry, &c. erected in the rear. The whole of the works have been executed by native tradespeople at schedule prices. Total cost, including warming apparatus, gas, boundary walls, &c. 2,459*l.* 3s. 6d. Mr. C. G. Searle was the architect.——The interior of the Manchester Exchange is now completed, the last coat of varnish for the columns (which are painted in imitation of grey granite, and the pilasters in imitation of Sienna marble) has been given this week. The painting of the room does credit to Mr. Lomax, of that town, who has executed it. According to the local *Courier*, the extension, &c. of this building has cost 66,000*l.*——Some articles intended for Hackthorne Church, by the late Mr. C. Mainwaring, of Lincoln, and said to be of the value of nearly 300*l.*, were recently put up to auction by his executors, but purchased *for the church* by a liberal Jew broker of London, Mr. Benjamin Benjamins, who seems to have been ashamed of the *Jewish* (?) spirit of his *Christian* confreres.——We are glad to see that the gas companies are quietly acquiescing in the truth of the principle deduced from their own Parliamentary returns, that reduction of present and past prices uniformly yields increased consumption and larger profits. The Norwich Company, in announcing a reduction to 5s., with 5 to 10 per cent. discount, very plainly betray their quiet confidence in this result by adding that, "whenever the increased consumption of gas on account of the reduction in price, or other circumstances, will enable the company to make a further reduction, the directors will most cheerfully extend to the consumers this advantage." And that they have already tested the truth of the principle is equally clear, for they reduced their charge in 1848, and are already building new and much enlarged works. —— The committee for erecting a new congregational chapel at Yarmouth having invited several architects throughout the country to submit designs in competition, the selection has been made in favour of a design by Mr. Kerr, of Norwich. The cost is estimated at 1,340*l.* including railing, &c. The facing material is white brick, with moulded brick dressings,—the style after the Italian.——A movement is being made at Ryde for the erection of a new pier. Surveys and estimates have been made by Mr. T. Hellyer, architect, and a lithographed plan is in course of execution under his direction. It is proposed to have it of galvanized iron, about three times the width of the present one, with head in proportion.—— The *Morning Herald* states that there is a great deal of disgraceful jobbing and bungling going on at the new dock works at Devonport, and that on the reassembling of Parliament committees will be moved for to inquire into the present condition of these "new works and improvements."——On digging the foundations of a new church at Ilfracombe, an abundant spring of pure water, an article hitherto unknown in that town, has been discovered.——Many of the Sheffield gas consumers are complaining of being humbugged by their gas company supplying them with gas of so little illuminating power, that the cost of it is now greater than when the price was higher. It was to be expected that some black sheep would attempt to impose upon the public in response to their outcry for "cheap and good gas;" but such companies are really imposing on themselves; for they are thus destroying all chances of profit in the wide field of domestic economy, in which gas will come to be used *only* when it is both good and cheap. A clear conviction of the truth of this view will soon compel the companies to make their cheap gas good, for it is in the domestic extension of its uses that they must look for their most profitable return. As for the Sheffield company, however, the price, as well as the quality, of their gas is complained of, and the monopolisation of its manufacture, by the conversion of the two companies into one, is blamed. The price of coal there is only 8s. 9d. a ton, while that of gas is 5s. 10d. the thousand cubic feet, although coke yields more than the cost of the coal, namely, 10s. a ton! ——Cobridge Church, in the Potteries, has been considerably damaged by lightning.—— A silver model of the church of Lindfield, value 100*l.* has been presented to the pastor of the parish by the parishioners.——On Saturday in week before last, a new structure, named "Exeter Bridge," over the Derwent, at Derby, was opened. It is built of stone, and consists of three elliptical arches. The length is 200 feet, and the width 32 feet. Mr. James Trubshaw was the architect.——At a meeting of upwards of 2,000 ratepayers at Dewsbury, it has been resolved to establish waterworks in the vicinity, at a probable cost of about 15,000*l.*——The Bradford Gas consumers complain that, although the price of gas has been reduced at Huddersfield and Halifax to 4s., and at Leeds to 4s. 6d., they are still compelled to pay such prices as 6s. to 5s., while their gas company is not only reaping ten per cent profit, but "large bonuses" besides. They think it hard that with coals less than half the price, they should be called on to pay so much more than is now demanded in London and other large towns. A determination is therefore being come to "to stand it no longer."——A new savings bank is now nearly completed in Bury, Lancashire, situate at the corner of Manchester and Bank streets. It was built under the superintendence of Mr. Thomas Holmes, architect, and is a two-storied building. The lower story consists of a spacious bank, and waiting area for depositors; together with all the necessary arrangements as to safe, &c. required in an establishment of the kind: a staircase leads to the upper story, laid out for either offices, or a suite of public rooms. The total cost was 845*l.*, exclusive of gas fittings. The contractors are Messrs. T. and J. Crossley, of Bury. ——The new building belonging to the Haywood Mechanics' Institute at Bury is now nearly completed.——The Corporation of Newcastle contemplate the construction of two sewers, both of which will be of great extent and utility. —— A grant of 1,650*l.* was made, during the last session of Parliament, for the improvement and extension of the building accommodation at the Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh. This grant is now in course of being expended by the Woods and Forests, and the intention, says the *Edinburgh Register*, is to convert the present class-room into a museum, and to erect to the westward of it a new and enlarged class-room. The museum will, like the buildings, be open to the public under certain restrictions.——The total capital raised by loan for the building of the New Corn Market, at Edinburgh, inclusive of 62*l.* by old materials, has been 17,119*l.* 3s. 2d., which has been all expended except 562*l.* 6s. The expenditure embraces a sum of 1,091*l.* for obtaining the Act of Parliament; 4,727*l.* as the price of property purchased for the site; 9,498*l.* as the cost of erecting the new market; 1,065*l.* as interest and commission.

THE BURY ATHENÆUM AND ADJACENT BUILDINGS.

We mentioned a few weeks ago the ceremony of laying the first stone of the Bury Athenæum, about to be built from the design of Mr. Sydney Smirke, architect. Annexed we now give the proposed Elevation of the structure, together with that of the New Public Buildings facing New Market-street, already completed, from the designs of the same architect, and which immediately adjoin the Athenæum, and form one pile.

The Athenæum will be Italian Doric in style, and will be lighted on the upper floor with seven windows, the pediments being alternately angular and circular. The lower windows will be rusticated. There will be a rusticated doric porch at the principal and central entrance, and each of the two entrances will be reached by a flight of stone steps, 6 feet wide. On the ground floor will be a news-room, 30 feet by 17½; a library of about the same size; a class-room, 43 feet by 15; a museum, 43 feet by 30; and a committee-room, 17½ feet by 15. Upstairs there will be a fine room for general purposes, measuring 102 feet 6 inches by 43 feet, and 28 feet high. This room on occasions of meeting will hold 1,000 persons. At each end there will be a gallery; under one gallery will be the entrance to an ante-room; and under the other, to class, lecture, and retiring rooms. The principal entrance, which leads to this public room, will measure 20 feet by 14; the second entrance-hall, leading to the reading-room and museum, will be 17½ feet by 9 feet. On the basement floor of the building there will be four class-rooms, of various sizes; and one end, measuring 43 feet by 30, will be devoted to public baths. It can be completed about the middle of next year. The cost has been estimated at 4,000*l.* Except some small ornamental portions, which will be of Hereford stone, the building will be constructed of stone from quarries belonging to the Earl of Derby. Mr. James Hill is the contractor for the masonry, and Mr. A. Denney for the woodwork.

The new Public Buildings include a hotel, an assembly-room, a lofty court-house, with suitable offices, a police office, estate office (for the Earl of Derby), &c. The Assembly-room measures 70 feet by 36, and its height from floor to ceiling-centre is equal to its breadth. It has a vaulted groined roof, in three compartments (proposed to be painted in encaustic), with an "apse" for the orchestra in the centre of that side facing the door. The room is lighted with three principal windows at each end by daylight, and by three chandeliers at night. This room is said to be very successful both in effect and for speaking in.

Exhibition at Belfast.—It will be seen by an advertisement in last week's Builder, that an exhibition of modern works of art is being formed at Belfast.

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